

Testimony of Carrie Scalzo

Parent from Brass City Charter School

212 Chestnut Ave Waterbury CT, 06710

Testimony submitted to the Appropriations Committee

February 24, 2013

- My name is Carrie Scalzo. I am a Teacher and Parent from Brass City Charter School in Waterbury.
- Brass City Charter opened this Fall thanks to the budget approved by this committee. We just celebrated our 100th day of school and already we are seeing positive changes in our students and community.
- Connecticut has one of the largest education gaps in the country. At Brass City Charter we are working as a team to close that gap. We offer rigorous academics as well character development programs. We have smaller classes and assistants working with each teacher. We also have support staff available to work one on one with students in need of skill reinforcement.
- As a teacher at Brass City Charter I know that my students are being offered a high quality curriculum and my students have the capability to achieve success. Inner city students can succeed as well as their suburban peers.
- As a mother, I have seen first hand the impact that the Charter school has had on my own children. I have twin boys in First Grade, one has some challenges and an IEP. Both of my sons have become so motivated this year to succeed in school. They have been participating in a reading challenge that has transformed our family time. Instead of deciding what movies to watch afterschool, they are now organizing their time to figure out how to get as many reading minutes in as possible. One of my boys even sets an alarm to get up extra early before he starts his 10 hour school days so he can reading minutes in the morning. I also have a daughter in Pre-K. It has been wonderful to see even at the early age how the students are using character building language and giving one another thoughtful compliments daily.
- The number one change I have seen in my own children and in my students is the sense of community. The Charter school has truly become our home away from home. Students and staff and parents all reach out to one another in very caring ways. There is a lot of communication between staff and families and parent involvement in our building.
- We have also received amazing support from the city of Waterbury, from the Mayor and his staff and from the Waterbury Superintendent. We are making positive changes in an inner city neighborhood and the people in that area are noticing and thanking us and offering any support they can.
- It has been a truly amazing school year so far. I thank you for the support and funding for Brass City Charter School. I hope that you will continue to allow for the budget agreements so that we can continue the amazing work we have begun in a city that truly needs the positive changes.